DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 104 483 JC 750 271

AUTHOR Jones, Lee C.
TITLE Survey on Drug Abuse.
PUB DATE Oct 74
NOTE 31p.; Practicum presented to Nova University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Doctor of Education degree

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.76 HC-$1.95 PLUS POSTAGE
DESCRIPTORS *Alcohol Education; Alcoholism; *Behavioral Sciences; Curriculum Development; *Drug Abuse; *Drug Education; Family Income; Health Education; Junior Colleges; *Junior College Students; Lysergic Acid Diethylamide; Marihuana; Narcotics; Sex Differences; Stimulants
IDENTIFIERS *Broward Community College (North Campus)

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine the drug usage of 107 students enrolled in randomly selected behavioral science courses at Broward Community College (Florida) in 1974. The relationship of the variables of sex and income to drug usage was also investigated. A review of the literature relating to student drug usage notes trends in drug use around the country. A breakdown of usage by particular drugs shows that 57.1 percent use marijuana, 11.2 percent use cocaine, 90.5 percent use alcohol, and 32.3 percent use "speed." A significantly larger proportion of males use cocaine, but no statistical significance was determined for the male-female differentials in marijuana, alcohol or speed usage. The percentages of students using drugs other than alcohol show highest use levels for low income (0-$4,999) and high income ($20,000+) students. Based on the information gathered in this study, a series of recommendations concerning drug programs, revised behavioral science curricula, and cooperative programs with community drug clinics are proposed. The survey instrument is appended. (AH)

ED104483

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SURVEY ON DRUG ABUSE

by

Lee C. Jones, M.S.

Broward Community College

A Practicum Presented To Nova University In
Partial Fulfillment Of The Requirements For
The Degree of Doctor of Education

NOVA UNIVERSITY

Resubmitted OCTOBER 15, 1974

JC 750 271

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The purpose of this practicum was to measure the amount of drug usage by students enrolled in selected behavioral science courses at Broward Community College North Campus. The practicum was also concerned with the relationship of the variables of sex and income to drug usage. The study also included a summary of pertinent literature that reported drug surveys completed throughout the country. Results of the local survey were provided in order that recommendations could be made on the basis of those results.

BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

Many drug surveys were conducted over the past decade which centered around the use of drugs by students in both high school and college. The purpose of this study was to (1) develop a survey to measure the amount of drug usage of students in selected behavioral science courses at Broward Community College, North Campus, (2) measure if there is a significant relationship between the variables of sex and income and drug usage, and (3) recommend changes in the course content of specific behavioral science courses.

Many methods and procedures have been used to discern the amount of drug usage among college and high school students. Goldstein, in 1966, observed drug use on 50 college campuses from the vantage point of a journalism graduate student. He carried out casual interviews with students, administrators and police. These interviews and observations led him to believe that marijuana was being used by one out of every seven students. He also concluded that the use of illicit or exotic drugs was a rare occurence on a college campus. Goldstein observed that drug usage varied from one campus to another. He first observed heavier use of marijuana on the more sophisticated, urban campuses. The u e of marijuana, however, was spread throughout the United States into the more rural areas. He concluded that the use of drugs by students was a reality. (Goldstein, 1966)

Simmons and Winograd, also in 1966, used observation as their method of research. They described a "hang loose" ethic and stated they felt that the university was the showplace of what is happening. They felt the drug scene was the central force of what is happening in the "hang loose generation." Simmons and Winograd proposed that a

million joints or marijuana cigarettes a day are smoked in California and that it would increase five percent a month. The relationship between drug abuse and the conventional world was said to be one of escape.

Simmons and Winograd considered education a major social force in producing youthful drug abusers. They criticized the educational function of producing people to meet the demands of a social order rather than to meet the needs and potentials of students. (Simmons and Winograd, 1966)

One of the first drug use surveys was a project undertaken by a college newspaper staff at Hunter College in 1965. They found that five percent of the students who were randomly selected admitted that they had used an illegal drug at some time. (McGrath, 1970)

The previous types of research projects were criticized by many, and efforts were made to carry out research that was more accurate. The Narcotics Sub-Committee of the Medical Society of the county of New York was persuaded that a review of the drug situation was essential. It submitted an eleven-item drug questionnaire to principals of the 95 New York City High Schools and to 48 New York State Colleges. Each college received three identical

forms to be filled out by the Dean of Students, the Health Service and a member of the student body. Responses from 43 of the 48 colleges were received. Sixteen of the 43 colleges reported no drug problem and 17 indicated only a minor drug problem. In terms of drug abuse, marijuana, amphetomines and barbiturates were described as being used the most frequently. Heroin and LSD were not reported with any degree of frequency. (New York Medical Society, 1966)

A number of studies were carried out in 1967. Miller sampled 2,600 high school students from Great Neck, New York. The findings revealed that eight percent of the students had tried marijuana and six percent had tried barbiturates. (Miller, 1967)

The same year Price carried out a study in the San Francisco area. His sample included only eleventh and twelfth grade students. Price found that 50 percent of the boys had tried alcohol, and 38 percent of the girls had tried it. He also found that 35 percent of the boys and 22 percent of the girls had used marijuana. (Price, 1967)

Pearlman carried out the Brooklyn College Survey. Among the 1,245 respondents, there were 78, or 6.3 percent, who admitted the use of drugs without medical approval. (Pearlman, 1967)

San Mateo County Junior College sampled 700 students and reported that 23 percent had smoked marijuana; most more than one time. Devonshire also found that 62 percent had consumed alcohol. (Devonshire, 1967)

Eells found that 20 percent of the student body at the California Institute of Technology had tried marijuana. Another study carried out in a college in California revealed that, of the 540 students surveyed at the State College at Long Beach, 50 percent had taken a drug without medical advice. (Eells, 1967)

A study was carried out in 1969 by Blum where he surveyed the drug usage at five college campuses in the western part of the United States. The five colleges were surveyed in an attempt to represent a cross section of the college population in western America. Campus number I was a private college with the wealthiest student body. Campus number II was a Catholic university with mostly middle class students. A junior college was campus number III. That campus was found to have more vocational oriented students and the youngest population. Campus IV was a state college and V was a state university. Table I shows the amount of drug usage in each of the schools. (Blum, 1969)

TABLE I

PER CENT OF STUDENTS IN EACH SCHOOL REPORTING

ANY EXPERIENCE WITH DRUGS

School	Tobacco	Alcohol	Amphet-amines	Sedatives	Tranquil-izers
I	76	94	25	31	18
II	72	91	11	18	11
III	83	94	26	29	21
IV	81	97	32	25	28
V	68	89	13	21	19

School	Marijuana	Hallu-cinogens	Opiates, cocaine, other narcotics	Special substances *
I	21	6	[illegible]	6
II	11	2	1	4
III	21	7	2	11
IV	33	9	1	8
V	10	2	1	3

* Special substances include materials used for kicks, such as glue, gasoline and nitrous oxide.

(Blum, 1969)

Blum was also interested in the characteristics of the students that abstained and those that used drugs. When income was used as a variable, it was found that there were more abstainers in the lower income groups; not from the poorest families (under $5,000) who had four percent of the abstainers and six percent of the total population, but from those in the working and lower-middle class brackets which had 48 percent of the abstainers and 28 percent of the total population. Only 13 percent abstained in the $15,000 to $25,000 range which made up 19 percent of the total sample. The $25,000 bracket had only four percent of the abstainers, which was low when they made up 19 percent of the total sample. (Blum, 1969)

Blum also found male students more likely than female students to use tobacco, marijuana or hallucinogens. The sexes had equal experience (within two percentage points) with alcohol, amphetamines and illicit opiates. The females, however, had more experience with sedatives and tranquilizers than did the males. (Blum, 1969)

Two major research projects concerning drugs were carried out in 1973. The Research Center at Purdue University surveyed a sample of students in the eleventh and twelfth grades and reported that 95 percent of the boys and 92 percent

of the girls had used alcohol. When the students were asked about marijuana, 60 percent of the boys claimed they had never smoked it and 67 percent of the females made the same claim. (Purdue University, 1973)

The Purdue study also concerned itself with the drug education programs asking the students how helpful the various drug programs they had in high school were. The results were as follows:

Very	14 percent
Quite	14 percent
Somewhat	25 percent
Not very	24 percent
Did not study drugs	20 percent

(Purdue University, 1973)

When students were asked what they would like their school to do along the lines of a drug program, ten percent wanted group counseling for personal problems of any kind; 14 percent felt that a course on drugs should be taught, 16 percent felt that guest speakers on drugs coming to schools would be good, 14 percent felt that private counseling sessions, rather than the group counseling mentioned, would be effective and 24 percent of the students felt that speakers that were ex-addicts would provide the school with the best program. (Purdue University, 1973)

Lloyd Johnston, through the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, surveyed high school seniors and then did a follow-up study to determine the difference one year made in the students' behavior. He determined that 79 percent of the students had never smoked marijuana during high school, 90 percent had never used amphetamines and 18.5 percent had never used alcohol. One year later the percentages had changed, as shown in Table II.

TABLE II

PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO NEVER USED DRUGS

Drug	In High School	One Year out of H.S.
Marijuana	79.3	65.7
Amphetamines	90.0	86.1
Alcohol	18.5	11.4

(Johnston, 1973)

Johnston was inspired to find that those students who decided to further their education at college or a trade school had the lowest rate of usage for every drug except marijuana, before and after high school graduation. Thirty-one percent of the college students used one or more illegal drugs during their freshman year at college while 16 percent had used more serious illegal drugs. And 21 percent had used marijuana. In the employed

group, 18 percent had used the more serious drugs, but only 14 percent had used marijuana. (Johnston, 1973)

The validity and reliability of self-reported drug use was questioned by educators and researchers. Donald Merachnik, superintendent of schools in Springfield, New Jersey, questioned self-reporting as a method of research. He believed that students may be less than truthful in responding to drug surveys. He felt that high school level students respond to surveys with inflated accounts of their activities. He further felt that, to a lesser degree, younger high school students do not admit to drug behavior on surveys because of their fear of being "busted." (Merachnik, 1972)

Paul Whitehead and Reginald Smart carried out a study that dealt with the validity and reliability of self-reported drug use, aware that the majority of drug surveys utilized these self-reporting techniques. This was understandable, according to the authors, since this method is most suitable for surveying large numbers of persons in a relatively short time while keeping the monetary costs of gathering data reasonably low. After examining the validity and reliability of four studies,

the authors concluded that the evidence supported what had thus far been an assumption on the part of many researchers. There was reason to have confidence in the validity and reliability of self-reporting of drug use. Whitehead and Smart also reported that studies of the drug-using behavior of students seem likely to produce estimates of drug usage rates that are, at worse, on the conservative side. (Whitehead and Smart, 1972)

PROCEDURE

A self-reported drug use survey was given to students enrolled in selected behavioral science courses of Broward Community College North Campus during Term II, 1974. The survey was conducted during the third week of the term. (Appendix A) The classes were randomly selected by use of a set of random numbers. One hundred and seven students participated in the survey. Because of the sample not being drawn from all courses at Broward Community College, there was no attempt to generalize these results to the total population of students.

The researcher gave written assurance that each student's answers would be kept confidential, and the students were not required to identify themselves in any way. The researcher administered the questionnaire in every class.

The survey was developed in such a way that the students could respond to the question, "do you use this type of drug" in the following manner:

A. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription.

B. Yes

C. No

D. No answer (Appendix A)

The findings reported were based on Chi square two way classification. This test was used to measure if there was a significant difference between male and female students' drug usage of marijuana, alcohol, speed (amphetamines) and cocaine. The difference was measured at the .05 level.

The difference between income groups pertaining to drug usage was illustrated through a graph which showed the percentage of students from various income groups who had used specific drugs.

RESULTS

The survey measured the amount of usage of specific drugs. The following is a list of the amount of usage:

TABLE III

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS USING A PARTICULAR DRUG

Marijuana	57.1
Cocaine	11.2
Alcohol	90.5
Speed	32.3

When sex was used as a variable, the difference in male and female usage was as follows:

Figure 1

MARIJUANA

MALE	FEMALE	
31	32	USAGE
17	27	NON-USAGE

107

$$X^2 = \frac{(107)\ [(31X27) - (32X17)]^2}{(31+32)\ (17+27)\ (31+17)\ (32+27)} = \frac{9,185,843}{7,850,304} = 1.2$$

The chi square test revealed that a significant difference between males and females at the .05 level did not exist for Marijuana.

Figure 2

COCAINE

MALE	FEMALE	
14	0	USAGE
34	59	NON-USAGE

107

$$X^2 = \frac{(107)\ [(14X59) - (0X34)]^2}{(14+0)\ (34+59)\ (14+34)\ (0+59)} = \frac{73,003,532}{3,687,264} = 19.8$$

The chi square test revealed that a significant difference between males and females at the .05 level did exist for Cocaine. The males had a significantly higher usage.

Figure 3

ALCOHOL

MALE	FEMALE	
45	53	USAGE
3	6	NON-USAGE

107

$$X^2 = \frac{107\ [(45X6) - (53X3)]^2}{(45+53)\ (3+6)\ (45+3)\ (53+6)} = \frac{1,318,347}{2,497,824} = .53$$

The chi square test revealed that a significant difference between males and females at the .05 level did not exist for alcohol.

Figure 4

SPEED

MALE	FEMALE	
17	18	USAGE
31	41	NON-USAGE

107

$$X^2 = \frac{107\ [(17X41) - (18X31)]^2}{(17+18)\ (31+41)\ (17+31)\ (18+41)} = \frac{2,067,347}{7,136,640} = .29$$

The chi square test revealed that a significant difference between males and females at the .05 level did not exist for speed.

Income was also used as a varible. The table below gives a breakdown of specific drugs used, other than alcohol, according to income.

The relationship between income and drug usage is bimodal. Lower income groups and upper income groups showed more drug usage than the middle income groups as can be seen from the following table:

TABLE IV

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS USING DRUGS OTHER THAN ALCOHOL BY INCOME

	Marijuana	Speed	Cocaine
0-$4,999	88.8	51.8	25.9
$5,000-9,999	60.3	34.5	8.6
10,000-14,999	50.0	25.0	6.4
15,000-19,999	38.8	24.5	10.2
20,000 +	71.4	42.8	22.4

RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon reviewing the results of the drug survey, the researcher feels that the following recommendations are consistent with the findings:

1. Each member of the behavioral science department should review the results of this practicum.
2. A drug unit should be included in the social problems and psychology of adjustment classes.
3. The units should include information on the physiological, psychological and sociological implications of drug usage.
4. The drug units should be inclusive, including all the latest research on all drugs.
5. Because of its popularity, alcohol should be stressed more than the other drugs.
6. Cooperative programs between the college and various drug abuse clinics in Broward County should be set up including extra credit incentives for students through volunteer clinic help and speakers from the drug clinic coming to behavioral science classes.
7. Each student enrolled in a social problems or psychology of adjustment class should be made aware of the counseling staff at the college and its availability to students wishing to take advantage of its services.

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APPENDIX A

"DRUG SURVEY"

This is a survey to determine the amount of drug usage at Broward Community College, North Campus. It is a survey that will not require the person taking the questionnaire to reveal his/her identity. Therefore, by not revealing his/her identity, there is no fear of incrimination.

DIRECTIONS: To complete the questionnaire, circle the answer desired.

BY: Lee C. Jones, M.S.
Department Head
Behavioral Sciences
Broward Community College
North Campus

PERSONAL DATA

1. AGE:

   a. 0 - 13
   b. 14 - 17
   c. 18 - 24
   d. 25 - 40
   e. 41 - and over

2. SEX:

   a. male
   b. female

3. RACE:

   a. white
   b. black
   c. other

4. RELIGION:

   a. Jewish
   b. Catholic
   c. Protestant
   d. other
   e. no religious affiliation

5. OCCUPATION:

   a. student
   b. white collar
   c. blue collar
   d. housewife
   e. unemployed

6. EDUCATION (Highest level finished):

   a. junior high or less
   b. high school
   c. two years post high school (technical or college)
   d. college degree
   e. post college degree

7. If you are the head of the household, what is your yearly income. If you are not the head of the household, what is the head of the household's income?

   a. $0 - $4,999
   b. $5,000 - $9,999
   c. $19,000 - $14,999
   d. $15,000 - $19,999
   e. $20,000 - or more

DO YOU USE THIS TYPE OF DRUG?

8. BARBITURATES: (Phenobarbital, seconal, tuinal, amytal, amobarbital,etc.)

a. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription.
b. Yes
c. No
d. No answer

9. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.
e. no answer.

10. OTHER SEDATIVES: (doriden, bromides, noludar, etc.)

a. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription.
b. Yes
c. No
d. No answer

11. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.
e. no answer.

12. RELAXANTS/MINOR TRANQUILIZERS: (librium, equanil, valium, etc.)

a. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription.
b. Yes
c. No
d. No answer

13. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.
e. no answer.

14. MAJOR TRANQUILIZERS: (thorazine, stelazine, mellaril, etc.)

a. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription
b. Yes
c. No
d. No answer

15. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.
e. no answer.

16. ANTIDEPRESSANTS: (elavil, tofranil, marphan, etc.)

a. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription.
b. Yes
c. No
d. No answer

17. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.
e. no answer.

18. DIET PILLS: (dexedrine or benzedrine)

a. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription
b. Yes
c. No
d. No answer

19. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.
e. no answer.

20. PEP PILLS: (dexedrine or benzedrine)

a. Yes
b. No
c. No answer

21. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times in the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.

22. METHEFRINE/METHAMPHATAMINE: ("speed," desoxyn, desbutal, etc.)

a. Yes
b. No
c. No answer

23. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months, but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.

24. COCAINE:

a. Yes
b. No
c. No answer

25. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.

26. OTHER STIMULANTS: (ritalin, novacaine, procaine, etc.)

a. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription.
b. Yes
c. No
d. No answer

27. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.
e. no answer

28. MARIJUANA/HASHISH:

a. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription.
b. Yes
c. No
d. No answer

29. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.
e. no answer.

30. LSD:

a. Yes
b. No
c. No answer

31. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.
e. no answer.

32. OTHER PSYCHOTOGENS: (psilocybin, mescaline, DMT, etc.)

a. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription
b. Yes
c. No
d. No answer

33. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.
e. no answer.

34. SOLVENT INHALANTS:

a. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription.
b. Yes
c. No
d. No answer

35. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.
e. no answer.

36. HEROIN:

a. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription.
b. Yes
c. No
d. No answer

37. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.
e. no answer.

38. OTHER OPIATES: (morphine, paregoric, demerol, etc.)

a. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription
b. Yes
c. No
d. No answer

39. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous

six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.

d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.

e. no answer

40. NONCONTROLLED NARCOTICS AND PRESCRIPTION NON-NARCOTIC ANALGENICS: (codeine cough syrups, darvon, ralwin, etc.)

a. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription.
b. Yes
c. No
d. No answer

41. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.
e. no answer.

42. OVER THE COUNTER NON-NARCOTICS: (aspirin, "no-doze," sominex, alka-seltse

a. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription.
b. Yes
c. No
d. No answer

43. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.
e. no answer

44. ALCOHOL PRODUCTS: (gin, whiskey, scotch, etc.) (beer, wine, etc.)

a. Yes, but in accordance with a doctor's prescription.
b. Yes
c. No
d. No answer

45. How often have you taken this drug?

a. have never taken or used the drug.
b. have taken or used the drug but not within the previous six months.
c. have taken or used the drug within the previous six months but not as much as six times during the previous 30 days.
d. have taken or used the drug at least six times during the previous 30 days.
e. no answer.

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